

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/419,005

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

Applicant(s)

STIBEL, JEFFREY M.

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to a telephone interview with Robert Greenspoon (Reg. No. 40,004) on 3/22/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-13, 15-19 and 21-24 (renumbered as 1-22).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No./Mail Date 3/14/02.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

1. The decision on appeal, which is a reverse to the claim rejections, from the board of patent appeals is mailed on 1/23/06.

The pending claims are 1-13, 15-19, and 21-24.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert Greenspoon (Reg. No. 40,004) on 3/22/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

Rewrite claim 2 as follows:

"2. The process according to claim 1, wherein presenting to the user an interface includes providing a source of profile data representative of information that is displayed to the user for guiding the user to supply information for refining the user search request."

In claim 3, line 1, please delete "A process according to claim 2" and insert - -
The process according to claim 2 - -;

In claim 4, line 1, please delete "A process according to claim 3" and insert - -

The process according to claim 3 - -;

Rewrite claim 5 as follows:

"5. The process according to claim 1, wherein analyzing said user search request includes determining whether a plurality of meanings is associated with said user search request";

In claim 6, line 1, please delete "A process according to claim 1" and insert - -

The process according to claim 1 - -;

In claim 7, line 1, please delete "A process according to claim 6, including the act" and insert - - The process according to claim 6, including an act - -;

Rewrite claim 8 as follows:

"8. The process according to claim 6, including an act of processing said list of associated meanings to generate a menu of choices that is selected by the user to assign at least one of said associated meanings to said keyphrase.";

In claim 9, line 1, please delete "A process according to claim 6," and insert - -

The process according to claim 6, - -;

In claim 10, line 1, please delete "A process according to claim 1" and insert - -
The process according to claim 1 - -;

In claim 10, line 3, please delete "the knowledgebase" and insert - - a
knowledgebase - -;

In claim 11, line 1, please delete "A process according to claim 1" and insert - -
The process according to claim 1 - -;

In claim 12, line 1, please delete "A process according to claim 1" and insert - -
The process according to claim 1 - -;

Rewrite claim 13 as follows:

"13. The process according to claim 12, including employing said keyphrase to
access said user linguistic knowledgebase and identify a sense signal associated with
said keyphrase.";

In claim 15, line 11, please delete "each associated with at least one preselected
search engine" and insert - - each said boolean search request associated with at least
one preselected search engine - -;

In claim 16, line 1, please delete "A system according to claim 15" and insert - -
The system according to claim 15 - -;

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In claim 16, line 2, please delete "said linguistic database" and insert - - said linguistic knowledgebase - -;

In claim 17, line 1, please delete "A system according to claim 15" and insert - - The system according to claim 15 - -;

In claim 18, line 1, please delete "A system according to claim 15" and insert - - The system according to claim 15 - -;

In claim 19, line 1, please delete "A system according to claim 15" and insert - - The system according to claim 15 - -;

In claim 19, lines 3-4, please delete "that sense signal" and insert - - the sense signal - -;

In claim 21, line 1, please delete "A process as claimed in claim 1" and insert - - The process according to claim 1 - -;

In claim 22, line 1, please delete "A process as claimed in claim 1" and insert - - The process according to claim 1 - -;

In claim 22, line 2, please delete "the relevance" and insert - - relevance - -;

In claim 23, line 1, please delete "A system as claimed in claim 15" and insert - - The system according to claim 15 - -; and

Rewrite claim 24 as follows:

"24. The system according to claim 15, wherein the query mechanism receives search results from each preselected search engine, and further comprising:

a merger module, wherein the merger module processes the search results received from each preselected search engine for presentation to the user, wherein each entry in the search results is weighted based upon relevance of the entry in relation to terms of the expanded search request."

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-13, 15-19, and 21-24 are allowed.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 571-272-4036. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M-F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joon Hwang
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

3/22/06


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